

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-06 IO-13 CG-00 DOTE-00

ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /112 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2043

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05124

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, EWWT, IMCO, UK

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH UK ON US OIL SPILLS
INITIATIVES

REF: STATE 66771

1. TERRY LEITZELL, STATE, EXPLAINED US OIL SPILLS INITIATIVE TO JOHN ARCHER AND JERRY LANCHIN, UK DEPT. OF TRADE, AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH. LEITZELL AND CLAY BLACK OF THE EMBASSY ALSO DISCUSSED POSSIBLE TIMING AND SCHEDULE FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATION OF US INITIATIVE WITH ARCHER AND LANCHIN AND WITH IMCO SEC GEN SRIVASTAVA.

2. ARCHER PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS LEADING UP TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN DECEMBER, INCLUDING USE OF SCHEDULED MSC MEETING IN APRIL, COUNCIL MEETING IN MAY, AND MEPC IN JUNE. ADDITIONALLY, HE PROPOSED JOINT MSC/MEPC MEETING DURING WEEK PRESENTLY OPEN IN IMCO SCHEDULE, JULY 18-22. HE STRONGLY URGED, CONSISTENT WITH RECENT UK NOTE, THAT MSC/MEPC CONFERENCE PREPARATORY MEETING IN JULY BE HELD IN WASHINGTON AT US INVITATION. HE ARGUED THAT WASHINGTON VENUE WOULD HAVE ADVANTAGE OF FAVORABLE
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US DOMESTIC PUBLICITY OF RESPONSIVE IMCO ACTION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO GAIN FIRST HAND IMPRESSION OF PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN FOR ACTION ON CONTROL OF VESSEL MARINE POLLUTION.

3. FINALLY, ARCHER PROPOSED NOV. 28 TO DEC. 2 FOR CONFERENCE IN LONDON, WITH POSSIBILITY OF LENGTHENING

CONFERENCE TO INCLUDE ONE OR TWO FOLLOWING WEEKS (PRESENTLY SCHEDULED FOR MSC AND MEPC). SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATCHKEEPING AND TRAINING PRESENTLY SCHEDULED NOV. 28 TO DEC. 2 WOULD BE MOVED UP TO JULY SO THAT EARLY COMPLETION OF ITS PREPARATORY WORK WOULD ALLOW RESCHEDULING OF CONFERENCE ON WATCHKEEPING AND TRAINING TO SPRING OF 1978. ARCHER ALSO PROPOSED USE OF SEPT. 5-9 SUBCOMMITTEE ON SAFETY OF NAVIGATION FOR FURTHER PREPARATORY WORK OF DECEMBER CONFERENCE AS NECESSARY.

4. ARCHER STRONGLY SUPPORTED THIS SCHEDULE AS BEST METHOD OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE INTERNATIONAL ACTION IN RESPONSE TO US CONCERNS. HE SPECIFICALLY NOTED THAT SCHEDULE PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER PREPARATORY WORK IN AUTUMN OR FOR FURTHER CONFERENCE TIME IN SPRING 1978 IF 1977 CONFERENCE DID NOT REACH FINAL AGREEMENT. HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN THAT SCHEDULING OF CONFERENCE FOR EARLY 1978 WOULD NOT PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR A SECOND SESSION IF NECESSARY. FINALLY, ARCHER STRESSED THAT US SHOULD APPROACH FRENCH DIRECTLY PRIOR TO APRIL MSC MEETING TO ATTEMPT TO SMOOTH WAY FOR INTERNATIONAL EFFORT.

5. IMCO SEC GEN SRIVASTAVA INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR CONFERENCE TO BE HELD DURING 1977, PROBABLY FOR WEEK OF NOV. 28-DEC. 2 OR LONGER. HE FELT IMCO AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD REACT PROMPTLY TO US CONCERNS AND THAT IT WAS FEASIBLE FOR IMCO MEMBER STATES AND SECRETARIAT TO BE READY FOR CONFERENCE THIS YEAR. HE SAID IT MIGHT

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BE DIFFICULT FOR SOME COUNTRIES TO DEAL WITH TWO CONFERENCES IN SPRING OF 1978. HE SUGGESTED THAT US NOT PUBLICLY RECOMMEND PRECISE DATES UNTIL MORE REACTION RECEIVED TO US PROPOSALS. HE SAID IMCO COULD WAIT AS LATE AS JULY BEFORE MAKING DECISION ON CONFERENCE DATE THIS YEAR. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF US WORKING WITH MAJOR MARITIME COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE FRENCH, PRIOR TO MSC AND SUGGESTED US GO TO PARIS FOR CONSULTATIONS. SRIVASTAVA AGREED WITH PREPARATORY SCHEDULE AS SUGGESTED BY ARCHER. FINALLY, HE SUGGESTED LETTERS FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS SHOULD INCLUDE MSC MEMBERS AS WELL AS IMCO COUNCIL MEMBERS.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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